

DOCUMENT 15 — 1976



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
For the Period Ending June 30, 1975



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Director, and Librarian

*To the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library:*

As Director, and Librarian, I have the honor to submit my report for the year July 1, 1974, to June 30, 1975.

Highlighting this year's activities were the events honoring the nation's Bicentennial. Poet Archibald MacLeish delivered a Bicentennial commemorative poem, "Night Watch in the City of Boston," to an audience in the Lecture Hall. It was the first event of "Literary Boston," a program jointly sponsored by the Library and Boston 200, consisting of exhibits, special publications, and a series of programs. Other events included in the Literary Boston series were a poetry reading by David McCord; a discussion, "The Articulate Adams Family," by Lyman Butterfield and Daniel Aaron; and a discussion on publishing in Boston with Edward Weeks, Richard McAdoo and Ellen Ballou. Special exhibits also continued the Bicentennial theme. "Boston: A State of Mind, a 300-Year Dialogue Between Author and Audience," the central exhibit is housed in a 16-foot diameter, plexiglass drum in the Great Hall. "Going Down to Boston: Some Writers and Their City," a fifteen-minute, slide-tape show on literature in Boston, is being screened at regular intervals in the Lecture Hall. A series of portable panels, "Contrasts," on various Boston literary figures is also on display.

In celebration of the Bicentennial the Boston Public Library proclaimed freedom from fines on overdue material if the material was returned between April 16 and May 31, 1975. The "amnesty" resulted in the return of hundreds of overdue books.

## GENERAL LIBRARY SERVICES

Services to patrons in branch libraries and in the General Library continued actively for all age levels, both in direct guidance of individuals as well as through group activities. Circulation of books in the Central Library continued on an upward trend; circulation in branch libraries, which in past years has been showing a downward curve, dropped in 1974-75 for total branch

libraries less than one-half of one percent; in eleven of twenty-five branches there was actually an increase in books circulated.

Attendance at library programs proved substantial. It is estimated that more than 75,000 patrons participated in or attended group activities and programs in branch libraries. Many thousands more attended Central Library events. Approximately 5,000 people entered the Central Library through the Boylston Street entrance each day.

Mobile services of the Boston Public Library continued to provide extensive outreach to two groups of patrons: those whose residences are not convenient to branch library locations were served by Bookmobiles; and homebound individuals or residents of nursing homes were served by a Homesmobile. These services resulted in a circulation of more than 129,000 books during this fiscal year, more than 10 percent of the total branch circulation.

For children, activities included film programs, story hours, activities for pre-school children, summer reading events, and special observances for Children's Books International.

Young adults were offered film programs, book discussion experiences, and participation in the Library's publication program. A group calling themselves CYAM (Concerned Young Adults of Mattapan) constructed an ingenious crossword puzzle, "Black Profiles," as part of the Mattapan Branch Library's young adult program.

For adults, several activities and programs were offered, and film screenings remained popular with adult as well as other age-level audiences. Never Too Late groups were sponsored in ten branch libraries. The Especially for Women and Parents Discussion groups continued to draw enthusiastic attendance.

Three branches (Charlestown, South Boston, Faneuil) mounted popular arts and crafts festivals which exhibited the works of neighborhood artists and drew large numbers of viewers.

Other activities and programs held at the Charlestown Branch Library included an exhibit of eight historical

colonial flags illustrating the evolution of the first Stars and Stripes. The Central Library and the Roslindale Branch Library hosted a preview of the Metropolitan Opera's Verdi Festival in Sight and Sound by William D. Miranda, opera columnist and lecturer.

The twenty-seventh annual awarding of the Mary U. Nichols Book Prizes was held at the North End Branch. Rafaela Fabrizio and Anthony Sirignano were the award winners, and David McCord, poet and essayist, gave the address at the ceremony.

The first annual American exhibition of children's books from abroad, Children's Books International, took place from May 27 to June 27, at the Boston Public Library. The exposition promoted the acquisition and use of foreign-language books as a necessary dimension for libraries. The exhibit items were gathered by the Combined Book Exhibit, Inc., of New York from publishers and publishers' associations abroad. Children's Books International opened with a reception on June 1, followed by a two-day program on June 2 and 3 comprised of symposia, lectures, panel discussions, slide-tape presentations, and films. Experts in many facets of children's literature around the world participated. In attendance at the symposia were representatives from several library journals and children's departments in large public libraries.

In addition to the two-day symposium, numerous special programs took place including storytelling in original languages, noontime screenings of international films, games, and puppet shows at both the Central Library and branches. The exhibit itself included more than 3,000 books from more than forty nations; the Boston Public Library acquired a copy of each of the books on display. A slide-tape, guided tour facilitated independent viewing of the displays. An unusual poster, designed by staff artist Rick Zonghi, was produced and on sale in the Publications Office.

In another special program for children in the Central Library an hour-long sequence of films entitled "Magic and Fantasy" was presented. The films shown were both animated and live action. This event was part of

the Magic Lantern Children's Film Program, a project of the University Film Study Center, and was partially supported by the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities. In February and March the Children's Room of the General Library held celebrations every Saturday featuring story hours — Pan African stories; tales for Valentine's Day; musical performances: City Mouse-Country Mouse, and Musical Adventures of Jack and Jill; film showing of "National Velvet" and slides about the Black heritage; and a "plant-in" presented by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Every Tuesday, combination programs featuring storytelling and crafts were held in the Children's Room.

In recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the *Horn Book Magazine*, the Library presented a month-long exhibit of rare children's books and books for children created by local poets, authors, and illustrators. In a series of lectures Paul Heins, editor of *The Horn Book*, spoke on the fifty-year history of the magazine; Sinclair Hitchings, keeper of prints, spoke on illustrations for children and "The Art of the Picture Book;" and Augusta Baker, coordinator emeritus of Children's Services, New York Public Library, gave a lecture on, "The Changing Image of the Black in Children's Literature."

The Young Adult Department sponsored a creative writing workshop for young people. Guest speakers were David Macaulay, author of *Cathedral* and *City*; John Keller, children's book editor at Little Brown and Company; David Moran, managing editor of the *Boston Phoenix*, and Louis Sasso, contributor to several poetry magazines and assistant to the director here at the Library.

The Never Too Late Group conducted a number of notable programs this year in the weekly calendar of activities. They included a lecture by William Pierce Randel, author of *The American Revolution: A Mirror of the People*, in celebration of National Library Week and another lecture, "India and Her Art," by Henry A. Tate, head of adult programs, Department of Public Education, Museum of Fine Arts. The Great Decisions discussion group held regular meetings throughout the

year. Among their topics of discussion were foreign affairs questions based on background information in booklets published by the Foreign Policy Association.

One of the most extensive programs initiated by the Library was the Music Americana series. This well-attended program illustrated through lecture-recitals the development of music performance and publishing in the United States with particular emphasis on New England. The monthly series opened with a concert by the Chorus Pro Musica. Alfred Nash Patterson was the conductor for the program which included the works of William Billings and Charles Ives. Other concerts included: Michael Boriskin, pianist; Bill Billings: Boston tunesmith; Sideroads of American Music by the Multiphonic Guild; The Cambridge Chamber Quartet; Joe Val and the New England Blue Grass Boys; The Gospel Singers, Twelfth Baptist Church, Roxbury; Max Morath; Virginia Eskin, pianist; and Julia Sutton: Music and Dances of Colonial America.

Black History Month was celebrated again in February with a series of films, lectures, and special events. The program at the Central Library featured a lecture by Jean M. McGuire, executive director of METCO; a discussion by Dr. Adelaide Hill Gulliver, director of Afro-American Studies at Boston University; and an exhibit titled "New England Blacks in the American Revolution." At the South End Branch Library a unique five-man jazz ensemble played the compositions of a local community composer, Leo Whitlarge, entitled "Sound-Spaces." "Artists and Art Talk," a discussion and demonstration on the use of varied materials and methods, was presented in celebration of Black History Month at the Egleston Square Branch Library.

The Library and the Irish American Cultural Institute cosponsored a program, "Irish Fortnight," in March. The program consisted of various lectures focusing on such topics as Irish politics, music, literature, and the Irish in America. A notable event in the Italian-American community of Boston took place at the Library when the Italian Culture Commission of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Order of Sons of Italy in America, presented the Boston Public Library the first of a

series of forty-eight commemorative medals which honor Italians and Italian-Americans who have made a major contribution to the welfare and progress of America over the past 200 years. The Marchese Franco Faa Di Bruno, Italian Consul General; the Right Reverend Edward G. Murray, president of the Board of Trustees; and Mrs. Josephine Tanner of the Italian Culture Commission, were part of the program at which Adolph Caso, educator and author, presented the medals to the Library.

Contemporary Jewish folk music, performed by a three-member group of Brandeis University students, was presented by the Library during a Chanukkah concert. The group performed popular Israeli songs, new works by young American composers, and original material.

In addition to its extensive services in the area of print materials, the General Library Services Division administers a growing collection and service center for audio-visual materials. Over the past twelve-month period there has been a 10 percent increase in film circulation in the Audio-Visual Center. Statistics for fiscal year 1975 follow:

Film Circulation — Community, 12,398; Library, 21,321; School, 4,768; Church, 1,525; Total, 40,012. There has also been a remarkable increase in record circulation: from 121,329 in fiscal year 1974, to 139,560 in fiscal year 1975, and an increase in the use of record-and tape-listening facilities by the public.

In 1975 the video taping of major programs within and outside the Central Library began in earnest. Along with these new operations, new programming (during the first six months of 1975 a total of 570 hours of programming took place in the Central Library) necessitated audio and video recording and duplicating for preservation. In order to implement these changes the procedures of the department and the duties of the staff have been reorganized.

“The Golden Age of German Cinema” was one of the many film programs organized by the Audio-Visual Department. This series was cosponsored with the Library by the Goethe Institute of Boston.

The Boston Public Library was chosen as a recipient for a humanities film program from the National Project Center for Film and Humanities which consisted of five films on freedom and responsibility. The films explored the conflicts man faces with those powers seeking to govern his activities (man vs. state, conscience vs. duty, individuality vs. common good) from the time of Socrates to modern-day America.

The publications program of General Library Services continued to be responsive to the needs and interests of all age levels. Notable among publications of General Library Services was the new edition of the Program Resources Directory, invaluable for its listing of organizations and groups which provide speakers, films, exhibits, and other program resources. Publications for children included a booklist, "Stepping Stones to Better Reading," and for young adults, "Listen to Me" and "And Ain't I a Woman."

The fifth edition of the Film Catalog was published during the past year. The 227-page catalog has a new format and lists over 3,500 16mm films and 8mm technicolor cartridges and was produced by a computer.

Conditions of the Central Library building (parts both old and new) and the branches have been conscientiously improved over the past twelve months. A "skyhook" was installed in the Great Hall to facilitate bulbing and to permit repainting of the skylight area, from which paint had been peeling. To provide independent air conditioning in the Rare Book and Manuscripts Department a separate unit was installed. Efforts to improve the conditions in the staff cafeteria were aided with a questionnaire sent to all members of the staff. Service Systems, Inc. is under contract to supply and maintain the vending machines located in the cafeteria. The former staff lounge, located between the courtyard and the Johnson building has been painted in preparation for the opening of the new publication and sales area.

CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) employees, working under the Public Facilities Department, cleaned and painted the exterior iron and metal work of the McKim building; painted various areas of the McKim building under the supervision of

Library staff; worked in the carpenter's shop repairing furniture, fabricating bookcases, and erecting storage bins for the city Building Department plans and blue-prints. Replastering large areas of deteriorated plaster was done in all stacks and corridors of the McKim building.

The interiors and exteriors of Adams Street, Faneuil, North End, Parker Hill, South End, and West End branches were painted by CETA employees. CETA carpenters made necessary repairs at the Connolly Branch, Hyde Park Branch, and Parker Hill, and CETA plasterers removed and replaced deteriorated plaster at the Connolly, Faneuil, and Parker Hill branch libraries.

A fire broke out at the Allston Branch Library in October. The Allston Branch is in a second-floor location, access to which is inconvenient for the handicapped and elderly; new rental quarters are continually being sought. Considerable damage resulted from a fire at the Lower Mills Branch Library caused by an outside electrical wire; the Library's maintenance staff is to be praised for their fine response to the emergency.

Other building activity among branches includes: much vandalism — particularly window breakage — at Brighton and Charlestown branches; transfer of the old Charlestown Branch Library to the custody and control of the Public Facilities Department; installation of a new roof on Grove Hall Branch; installation of a new sprinkler system at the Washington Village Branch, closed because of fire damage since 1972. Several other items are still awaiting the attention of the Boston Housing Authority before the Washington Village Branch can be reopened.

Plans for the branch building program progressed well. A site was chosen for the new Codman Square Branch Library on Washington Street in Dorchester; this is the area occupied formerly by the Pierce School. The new Codman Square Branch will be larger in size than the regular neighborhood branch; the collection size will be 70,000 to 80,000 volumes, and parking for the branch will be provided. It is hoped that the branch will be a focal point for the entire Dorchester area. The architect chosen for the project, Eco Tecture, Inc., has made rapid progress on the drawings.

In September of 1974, the first group of bids for the new Dudley Street Branch Library were opened; they exceeded estimates by \$500,000. In April, 1975, the plans were rebid and, because of the change in the economic climate in the construction field and the cost of materials having gone down, the low bid was much lower than the 1974 bids; the contract for construction was awarded. In June the ground was broken for the new branch.

The new Lower Mills Branch Library will be constructed on an old school site which has been turned over by the School Department. Paul Carroll is the architect chosen to design the branch.

Following the sudden death of John M. Carroll, assistant director for General Library Services, the review of General Library Services undertaken by Mr. Carroll continues. The total branch organization is being studied and evaluated with particular attention to staffing patterns and to restoration of more responsibility and decision-making at the branch level. Plans are under way to fill the position of Supervisor of Branches.

## RESEARCH LIBRARY SERVICES

The renovations necessary to complete relocation of departments within the Research Library were accomplished over the past year. In July the reference and reading room for music and fine arts opened for service in their new quarters in the West Gallery. A new elevator was opened to facilitate accessibility of these departments. The quarters that had previously been used by the Music Department were refurbished and established as the Charlotte Cushman Room. The Charlotte Cushman Room houses materials on the theater and was set up as a result of a gift from the Charlotte Cushman Club in Boston. The Government Documents Department was also relocated in July to the area which housed the old Newspaper Room. The area was freshly painted and the terrazzo floor cleaned and polished; the brick fireplace, covered over for so long, has been exposed. The two adjacent rooms, formerly the Periodical Reading and Reference Rooms, have been converted to work and stack space for Government Documents.

In March Rare Books and Manuscripts opened its new quarters to the public in the Johnson building. The only entrance to this department is at the end of the West Gallery. An exhibition area was opened adjacent to the Rare Books and Manuscripts Department and this area also includes the William Addison Dwiggins Room and the Serge Koussevitzky Exhibition Area. Also in March, the Science Reference Department occupied its new quarters in what used to be the Lecture Hall, and the corridor connecting the second floors of the Research and General Libraries was opened to the public. In June Social Science Reference moved into the area vacated by the Science Reference Department; after that area had been completed by the end of the summer of 1975, the transfer of the Research Library Catalog from the Chavannes Gallery and the Abbey Room into the Elliot Room (which formerly housed the Government Documents Department) will take place. With the completion of this move, the Puvis de Chavannes Gallery and the Abbey Room will be restored to their original state and the planned departmental relocations within the Research Library concluded.

The Patent Collection, which has long been housed at Emmanuel College and Newton College, was moved to the Central Library and shelved in the seventh-floor, stack area on steel shelving which had previously been installed at the Long Island facility. The Boston Public Library is one of the eighteen libraries in the United States currently receiving United States patents on deposit from the Patent Office. The Patent Collection dates back to 1790.

Within all departments of the Research Library there has been much activity related to programming, exhibits, special services, or publications.

The Library's exhibits and programs dealt with a variety of cultural and historic topics. "An Evening with Charles Bulfinch" honored the architect Bulfinch, who as a boy witnessed the British occupation in 1775. The symposium was organized by Charles Hammond, Sinclair Hitchings, and Paul Swenson. The format included Bulfinch drawings and manuscripts, Pendleton and Buford lithographs, and photographs by Samuel Chamberlain.

Among the exhibits in the Wiggin Gallery were "Micossi: Graffiti," and "Back Country and Sea's Edge" featuring the works of Thomas Nason and Stow Wengenroth. An exhibit titled "The Graphic Art of George Bellows" included the artist's portraits, landscapes, and figures. Other exhibits were: Landscapes by Conley Harris; Drawings by Barbara Swan; David McCord — The Poet as Collector; Fine Art Lithography in Boston; North End Forever.

In addition to the Wiggin Gallery exhibits, there were also exhibits in the Sargent Gallery, among which were "Victorian Boston: Links in Arts and Letters" and "Mexican Medley."

A panorama of clay sculpture was displayed in the Boston Room of the Library during the month of March. The artist was a young local woman named GOGO. Her collection consisted of a group of stark white figures, most of which were made especially for the exhibit.

The Library hosted two archaeological lectures this year. Dr. Maria Guiseppina Cerulli spoke on "New Archaeological Research in the Vesuvian Area," and Lily Kahil presented a lecture on the "Images of Artemis" with illustrations accompanying the lecture including artistic representations and interpretations of Artemis, the Olympian Goddess of the Hunt.

The third annual Maury A. Bromsen Lecture in Humanistic Bibliography was titled "New Englanders in Nova Albion: Some Nineteenth Century Views of California." Dr. James D. Hart, an authority in the field of American Literary History, was the speaker. The second annual Cushman lecture was given by William Morris Hunt on "Where Have All the Theaters Gone?" This lecture is the result of a gift to the Trustees of the Library in 1973 of the assets of the Charlotte Cushman Club. In June of 1975 the Charlotte Cushman Club donated four volumes of guest books of the Charlotte Cushman Club of Boston, which contain the names of several hundred actresses and actors and other persons associated with the theater, from 1927 through 1959, and the titles of plays and musical shows in which they participated, often with the home address of the registrant given.

“Two Hundred Seventy Years of Monumental Lettering” was the topic for the second annual, William Addison Dwiggins Lecture. The speaker, John Benson, is a member of the Society of Printers and Managing Partner of The John Stevens Shop in Newport, Rhode Island. His talk dealt with the history of monumental lettering and its present state as an art form.

In February the Boston Public Library was designated as the first “N.E.H. Learning Library” by the National Endowment for the Humanities and was awarded a grant in support of its “Boston: An Urban Community” program. This educational program is aimed at a diverse audience of prospective learners and present and former students; it includes group and individual learning sequences of lectures, discussion meetings, film showings, interpretative demonstrations, and individual study guidance sessions and is of great value to citizens throughout the Boston community. An advisory committee was appointed to oversee the program by selecting the topics, and for evaluation and recruitment. Members of the advisory committee are David J. Hall, director of American Studies Program at Boston University; Douglas Jones, lecturer in History at Lowell State College; David H. Fischer, chairman of History Department at Brandeis University; Thomas O’Connor, professor of History at Boston College; Barbara Miller Solomon, senior lecturer in History and Literature at Harvard University; Sam Bass Warner, professor of History and Social Sciences at Boston University; and Alan Weinblatt, professor of English at Boston College.

Paul M. Wright was appointed the program director of the NEH Learning Library in February when the series were first offered. Thomas O’Connor taught a sequence entitled “Bibles, Brahmins, and Bosses: Leadership and the Boston Community;” the other sequence offered in February and March featured Gerald Bernstein, professor of Art History, Brandeis University and was entitled “Boston’s Architecture: From First Townhouse to New City Hall.” Two of the lectures in the sequence on Boston’s architecture were open to the public. James O’Gorman, an authority on Richardson spoke

on "Richardsonian Boston" and Gerhart Kallman, who designed the new Boston City Hall, spoke on the new City Hall.

For April and May of 1975 the following courses on the emergence of Boston were offered. "Family Life in Boston: From Colonial Times to the Present" with Nancy F. Cott, professor of History, Yale University; and "Shaping the Boston Landscape: Drumlins and Puddingstone" with George K. Lewis, Department of Geography, Boston University.

The Print Department was very active in making loans of prints to museums, universities, and the media, a partial listing of which is: Fogg Art Museum; Currier Gallery, Manchester, New Hampshire; *Boston Globe*; Channel 7; Channel 56; Indianapolis Museum of Art; Smithsonian Institution; Yale University Art Gallery; Museum of Afro-American History; French Library; Boston 200; Birger Sandzen Memorial Gallery, Lindsborg, Kansas; Metropolitan Museum of Art; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Fort Worth, Texas. The important purchases made by the Print Department include three original color etchings "Colloredo and North Italian Alps," "Gulf of Trieste," and "Leukos Mountains, from the Sea" by Mario Micossi; three original pen and wash drawings "New Growth of Freedom," "Punch Autumn," and "Honest John" by Leslie G. Illingworth; two charcoal drawings by Conley Harris — "Broken Fence" and "Grey Day, Brave Boat Harbor, Maine;" portfolio — Erasmus "In Praise of Folly"; ten signed prints by Fritz Eichenberg; and four posters by Clementine Dufau, Georges de Feure, Jean Pal, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec purchased from Lords Gallery in London, England.

The Boston Public Library received a LSCA grant for 1974 in the amount of \$100,000 to further the "discovery and exploration of the history of Massachusetts cities and towns through the preservation and study of local newspapers." The grant was used to purchase and microfilm nineteenth-century, Massachusetts newspapers, to preserve these records of local history which might otherwise be lost.

On January 13 the Boston City Council passed a resolution "to create an archive for the records of the City of Boston." The majority of the records of the city have been transferred to the Library; these include city assessor's records and building plans and blueprints of Boston, the records of which are in the Boston Building Department. With the aid of personnel employed at the Library under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) these blueprints were organized and housed in the seventh-floor, stack area. CETA personnel were also involved in a project to revise and edit the Research Library catalog.

Beginning January 1, the Library was assigned as recipient of PL480 Arabic materials. The PL480 program, administered by the Overseas Operations Division of the Library of Congress, provides for the purchasing, servicing, and distribution to selected libraries and research institutions in the United States of current publications from countries in which the United States government has local currency funds derived from the sale of surplus agricultural products. This assignment was transferred from Boston College to the Boston Public Library, and with it came the transfer of the Arabic materials, some 15,000 volumes, which Boston College had acquired under the program. Khalil Mahmud, deputy librarian of Ibadan University Library in Nigeria, joined the administrative staff of the Library for six months to organize the PL480 material and review the Arabic holdings of the Boston Public Library and the consortium libraries.

The Kirstein Business Branch at 20 City Hall Avenue is a specialized subject reference department of the Research Library which has long served the downtown business and financial community with its extensive collection of directories, reference books, journals, and documents. In order to broaden its resources and strengthen its services, the Kirstein Business Branch acquired several major reference tools in microfilm: complete 10K and annual reports of all companies listed in the New York Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange from 1967 and the D-U-N-S Account Identification Service. To better meet the specialized needs of the community it directly serves, the Kirstein Business Branch

ceased to maintain a circulating collection of books for home reading purposes in order to concentrate on its subject reference function.

The archives and collection of old music owned by the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston, Inc. were given to the Trustees of the Library to be maintained and preserved as part of the permanent research collection. Under the will of the late Samuel Chamberlain, artist, etcher, photographer, and author — and longtime friend of the Boston Public Library — a group of forty original drawings were bequeathed to the Boston Public Library. This bequest includes brickwork pencil drawings as well as pen and ink drawings of various scenes.

Mr. and Mrs. John Holt of Honolulu, Hawaii, presented the Library with an outstanding collection of prints, drawings, and maps from Northern Africa, Gibraltar, Turkey, and India.

The Library was the recipient of gifts from approximately 475 donors; these donations included 17,751 volumes, plus 142 cartons of books, and fifty bundles of periodicals.

A number of booklists and other publications were produced by the Library. The Boston Public Library compiled and published a series of reading lists pertaining to the television series, NOVA. The Library also co-sponsored a NOVA program this year which included thirteen films followed by discussions. The thirteen bibliographies were compiled and annotated by members of the Science Reference staff. Suzanne K. Gray, head of Science Reference, prepared the material for publication in book form.

A pamphlet reprinted by the Library was "Postal Service in Boston 1639-1893" by Carol Wilhelm Ernst. This includes a commentary by John Alden, keeper of rare books.

*The Lithographs of Stow Wengenroth* by Ronald and Joan Stuckey, with essays by Albert Reese; Sinclair Hitchings, keeper of prints; and Paul Swenson; and a foreword by Philip J. McNiff is the most recent art book to be published by the Library. The book contains numerous illustrations of the artist's work, including materials which have been exhibited in the Library.

In commemoration of the Bicentennial, the Library published a broadside of Archibald MacLeish's poem, "Night Watch in the City of Boston," which was written for the opening event of Boston's Bicentennial celebration.

Also published was the second Bromsen lecture, "The Delights of a Rare Book Librarian," by Frederick R. Goff.

Two new members have been added to the Greater Boston Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries: the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was voted a full member, and the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester was admitted as an affiliate member. Throughout the past year the Board of Directors has been at work on a constitution and bylaws for the consortium. A user handbook has been prepared and distributed to all registered consortium borrowers to provide users with a brief introduction to each consortium library. It includes such basic information as the address and phone number of the library, hours of service, regulations for borrowing, and a list of departments or branch libraries. The special subject strengths and unique collections of each library are mentioned briefly. Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Consortium Newsletter* was published in November of 1974; two subsequent issues were published prior to June of 1975, and this *Newsletter* will now be produced regularly.

Other topics of discussion concentrated on by the Board of Directors were photocopying policy, joint purchase of various materials, the Boston Public Library's newspaper project, Arabic holdings in consortium libraries, and membership policy. The committees of the consortium — Cataloging, Goals, Reader Services, and Selection/Acquisitions — have been meeting throughout the year to discuss various aspects of consortium activity. One project undertaken by the Reader's Services Committee focuses on improved access to the major microform collections at the consortium libraries as part of an effort to improve service by providing in-depth descriptions of large, important, microform collections. Several committee members of the Selection/Acquisitions Committee assisted the Boston Public Library on a German monographic series project, the main purpose of this review

was to provide a means to gauge the general collecting profile of the several libraries, rather than any specific evaluation of individual titles.

The consortium sponsored a symposium on Libraries and Resources for African and Afro-American Studies in March. Featured speakers were James Armstrong, librarian of the African Studies Library at Boston University; J. O. Dipeolu, university librarian at the University of Ife, Ile-Ife, Nigeria; Khalil Mahmud, Deputy librarian, University of Ibadan, Nigeria; and Dorothy B. Porter, curator (1930-1973), Moorland-Springarn Collection, Howard University, Washington, D. C.

The *Union List of Serials Currently Received* was published in two formats: an alphabetical title listing and a subject arrangement by Library of Congress classification; this represents the combined current serial holdings of all consortium member libraries, except the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This publication was accomplished with Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds.

An important factor in increased cooperation among consortium libraries is the regular exchange of materials. This year a daily delivery truck from the Boston Public Library to all Boston area consortium members has been established. In addition, there is a courier service between the University of Massachusetts/Amherst and the Boston Public Library.

The expanded facilities of the Boston Public Library are of interest to librarians both foreign and domestic. Representatives from major public libraries throughout the country were given tours of the Central Library complex; some of which were the Chicago Public Library, the Public Library of Los Angeles, and the Dallas Public Library. From abroad thirty members of the Japan Library Association toured the Central Library and branches for two days while on a trip to study the activities of American libraries; twenty-five architects from the Soviet Union stopped by for a brief tour; a group of librarians, architects, and the Minister of Public Works of The Hague, Netherlands, toured the new building in preparation for a new royal library; other librarians were

from England, Ireland, Mexico, Iran, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil, India, Malta, and Nigeria. Of particular note was a visit by a group of about thirty librarians in November from Europe, Asia, and Africa en route to the 1974 Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in Washington, D. C.

### ASSOCIATES OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bruce A. Beal was elected chairman of the associates of the Boston Public Library on December 12, 1974, and Mrs. Frances H. Howe was elected vice-chairman. The size of the executive committee increased from five members to nine; the committee met regularly. Four subcommittees of the executive committee of the associates were established: Membership — to concentrate on promotion of membership; Program — to plan programs of the associates; Publicity — to provide information to the public about the resources and activities of the Library; and Special Projects — to explore voluntary service to the Library by members of the associates.

At the March 3 meeting of the executive committee, three members of the staff of the Library made presentations on their areas of activity. Y. T. Feng, assistant director, explained the function of the Research Library and emphasized the importance of the Boston Public Library's relationship to the rest of the library community and also the interrelationships between its special departments and disciplines. Mary Heneghan, regional administrator, discussed the plan of service of the Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System, its purposes, organization, services, and financing. Sinclair Hitchings, keeper of prints, described some of the special collections of the Library and suggested that a project group of associates volunteers, under staff guidance, could carry out surveys that would describe and report on the Library's diversified children's book collections or the various theater collections. Mrs. Eldredge and Mrs. Howe began visiting the special collections departments to see the kind and variety of the collections, before such a volunteer group is established.

The associates and members of the Charlotte Cushman Club celebrated the opening of the Charlotte Cushman Room on November 8, 1974, with talks by Mrs. Charles Innes, president of the club, and William Morris Hunt.

One of the major events sponsored by the associates in the past year was the Serge Koussevitzky dedication program consisting of a lecture followed by a reception. Speakers, honoring the famed Boston Symphony Conductor, were Mr. Richard Burgin and Mr. Aaron Copland. The dedication program formally opened the Serge Koussevitzky Exhibition Room. Mrs. Olga Koussevitzky, who was present, was appointed honorary curator of the Koussevitzky collection. The Koussevitzky Collection, donated by the widow of Serge Koussevitzky, consists of his honorary degrees from eleven colleges and universities, twenty awards and citations, caricatures of Dr. Koussevitzky, programs, recordings, books, and musical scores, as well as gifts of bowls, vases, and other memorabilia presented to Dr. Koussevitzky throughout his lifetime.

#### EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Eastern Massachusetts Regional Library System provides service to the region's member libraries in adult, young adult and children's services through its staff of regional service librarians and operates with a plan of service developed and approved by member libraries. As a result of meetings held throughout the year to discuss the plan of service, the regional office staff now also provides services and resources in the areas of administrative and technical services. Michael Dygert, formerly director of the Winthrop Public Library in Winthrop, Massachusetts, joined the Eastern Regional staff as regional services librarian for Administrative and Technical Services.

The EMRLS received LSCA (Library Services and Construction Act) funds for additional programs as follows: \$75,000 for reference collections; \$100,000 for books to strengthen circulating collections of the headquarters

Library with an emphasis on ethnic materials; and \$150,000 for audio-visual materials with an emphasis placed on children's films. During the year there have been improvements in regional audio-visual, film service. Personnel provided by Eastern Regional staff and member librarians conducted reference workshops on choosing and ordering the reference books which were obtained with LSCA funds.

## PERSONNEL

Staff members have been primarily concerned with professional duties within the context of regular library programs and services; yet some of the staff participated in extracurricular professional activities. Lloyd Jameson, coordinator of Government Documents and Newspapers, participated in a panel presentation of the Federal Documents Conference held in Storrs, Connecticut, and Ellen Eisenstein served as a Boston Public Library liaison person and regularly attended the NELINET Task Force on Government Documents. Theresa Cederholm attended a seminar on Art Exhibition Catalogs in New York City. Edwin Sanford attended the meetings of the Organization of American Historians in Boston. Paul McCallion attended the Institute on Library Services to the Business Community, sponsored by the federal government. Y. T. Feng, assistant director, was awarded an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, from New England College.

John J. Connolly, associate director of the Library, retired on December 31, 1974, after over fifty years of dedicated service. On January 10, 1975, the Trustees appointed Mr. Connolly as honorary keeper of the Trustees' Library "as a pledge of our affection and memory." A fund was also established in Mr. Connolly's name to provide a lasting memorial of his many contributions to the Boston Public Library.

On September 24, 1974, Alice E. Hackett, coordinator of processing, retired from the Library after forty-six years of service. Branch Librarian Geraldine Altman of the Jamaica Plain and Connolly Branch Libraries retired on December 20, 1974, after many years of service to the

Library. Mildred C. O'Connor, coordinator of social sciences, retired on June 18, 1975, after forty years at the Library.

The Library was saddened by the death of Frank W. Buxton, former trustee. Mr. Buxton was on the Board of Trustees of the Public Library from 1928 to 1961, and served longer than any other trustee. He died at the age of ninety-six. Former Trustee Erwin D. Canham and Trustee Sidney R. Rabb participated in the funeral service ceremonies for Mr. Buxton.

A John M. Carroll Fund was set up in honor of the late John M. Carroll, assistant director, to acquire materials relating to the history and culture of Boston.

At the eighth annual recognition ceremony for Library employees who have completed twenty-five years of service, the following staff members were honored: Arthur Burke, Clifford L. Fay, Jeanne M. Hayes, William R. Lewis, Ruth V. Marshall, Ellen M. Oldham, Euclid J. Peltier, Sadie M. Rotondo.

PHILIP J. McNIFF,  
*Director, and Librarian.*

## BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Table 1. Circulation

## BOOK CIRCULATION

	Fiscal 1973	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975
Central Library . . . . .	787,046	1,047,926	1,122,148
Kirstein Business Branch . . . . .	8,509	6,997	4,525*
Adams Street . . . . .	94,844	78,549	77,383
Allston . . . . .	35,589	36,677	35,857
Bookmobile Service . . . . .	237,188	160,581	129,072
Brighton . . . . .	113,755	109,403	105,912
Charlestown . . . . .	44,704	43,004	44,677
Codman Square . . . . .	52,169	41,258	35,566
Connolly . . . . .	40,660	38,397	39,433
East Boston . . . . .	39,768	33,966	37,526
Egleston Square . . . . .	27,403	25,066	28,004
Faneuil . . . . .	38,633	35,373	35,940
Fields Corner . . . . .	102,801	90,879	90,604
Grove Hall . . . . .	39,646	28,336	31,795
Hyde Park . . . . .	103,100	95,647	101,682
Jamaica Plain . . . . .	58,355	52,619	52,387
Lower Mills . . . . .	44,507	39,084	36,754
Mattapan . . . . .	34,602	34,551	31,308
Mt. Pleasant . . . . .	18,500†	17,342	13,078
North End . . . . .	30,656	25,582	28,214
Orient Heights . . . . .	33,148	29,031	28,614
Parker Hill . . . . .	36,309	31,641	27,226
Roslindale . . . . .	119,528	110,895	100,088
South Boston . . . . .	78,343	74,164	72,681
South End . . . . .	32,333	31,708	31,138
Uphams Corner . . . . .	54,641	50,245	51,736
Washington Village . . . . .	2,573‡	—‡	—‡
West End . . . . .	62,360	53,755	56,656
West Roxbury . . . . .	138,837	127,411	129,400
Hospital Library Service . . . . .	24,985	22,067	20,127
Multilingual . . . . .	18,148	17,043	24,821
Total, Branch Libraries . . . . .	1,477,744	1,373,693	1,368,607
Total, Entire Library . . . . .	2,510,487	2,589,197	2,624,352

\*Ceased circulation of materials May, 1975.

†Estimated

‡Branch closed due to fire, August 12, 1972.

## NON-BOOK CIRCULATION

	Calendar 1973	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975
Films and film strips . . . .	33,891	36,414	40,012
Recordings . . . .	135,608	121,329	139,560
<b>Totals . . . .</b>	<b>169,499</b>	<b>157,743</b>	<b>179,572</b>

## VOLUMES SENT ON INTERLIBRARY LOAN

	Fiscal 1973	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975
Interlibrary loans . . . .	15,827	14,924	15,625

Table 2. Growth of the Library

## BOOKS

	Calendar 1973	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975
<b>General Library:</b>			
Volumes added . . . .	164,234	156,128	148,699
Volumes withdrawn . . . .	—	6,376	16,561
Total on hand . . . .	1,384,607	1,445,079	1,577,137
<b>Research Library:</b>			
Volumes added . . . .	61,986	71,164	103,943
Volumes withdrawn . . . .	842	568	110
Total on hand . . . .	2,137,946	2,182,736	2,286,649
<b>Total book stock . . . .</b>	<b>3,522,553</b>	<b>3,627,815</b>	<b>3,863,786</b>

## NON-BOOK MATERIALS

	Calendar 1973	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975
Films . . . . .	5,267	5,416	5,623
Filmstrips . . . . .	401	577	577
Recordings . . . . .	169,255	179,371	196,787
Cassettes . . . . .	4,366	11,945	14,352
Lantern slides . . . . .	14,884	14,884	14,884
Negatives . . . . .	2,130	2,130	2,130
Pictures . . . . .	426,426	426,426	426,426
Postcards . . . . .	133,805	133,805	133,805
Prints and drawings . . . . .	56,527	56,897	57,559
Projected books . . . . .	178	178	178
Microcards . . . . .	11,589	11,843	11,851
Microfiche (sheets) . . . . .	221,714	237,719	268,522
Microfilm (reels) . . . . .	54,736	58,157	73,884
Microprints (boxes) . . . . .	3,764	3,919	4,140
Aperture cards . . . . .	—	10,151	10,151

Table 3. Cataloging Statistics

	Calendar 1973	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975
Volumes processed . . . . .	226,220	227,292	252,642
New titles cataloged . . . . .	47,595	52,002	71,769
Original cataloging . . . . .	11,567	11,518	14,518
NUC cataloging . . . . .	5,181	6,272	5,341
LC cataloging . . . . .	28,661	32,572	61,998
Rare book cataloging . . . . .	1,793	1,640	1,912
Films . . . . .	922	400	259
Recordings . . . . .	4,671	7,484	9,381
Cassettes . . . . .	4,366	5,054	2,407

Table 4. Binding

	Calendar 1973	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975
Volumes bound . . . . .	55,500	54,500*	57,200*

\*Estimate

3 9999 06315 049 2

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Table 5. Library Expenditures

	Calendar 1973	Fiscal 1974	Fiscal 1975
<b>Salaries and Wages:</b>			
City Appropriation			\$6,321,752 00
Eastern Regional Public Library System			461,820 00
Trust Funds Income			—
<b>Total</b>			\$6,786,572 00
<b>Books and Other Library Materials:</b>			
City Appropriation			\$1,125,101 00
Eastern Regional Public Library System			740,167 00
Trust Funds Income			97,359 00
Library Services and Construction Act			290,257 00
Library of Last Recourse			142,229 00
<b>Total</b>			\$2,395,113 00
<b>All Other Expenses:</b>			
City Appropriation			\$1,196,025 00
Eastern Regional Public Library System			139,121 00
Trust Funds Income			—
Library Services and Construction Act			1,006 00
<b>Total</b>			\$1,636,152 00
<b>Grand Total</b>			\$10,317,337 00